

# **Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot**

## ***Wichita, KS***

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### **BACKGROUND**

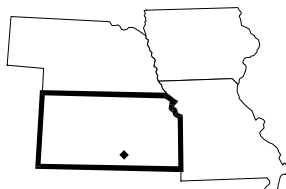
EPA has selected the City of Wichita for a Brownfields Pilot. The population of the City of Wichita and surrounding Sedgwick County is the largest in Kansas (438,076). This area, the most industrially developed in the state, is home to aircraft manufacturing, agribusiness, and petroleum and chemical production operations. This formerly significant economic and residential center is littered with abandoned and unused properties that suffer from the negative effects of perceived contamination.

The Pilot targets an approximately nine-square-mile industrial corridor that runs through the City of Wichita along a major railroad line. Forty-two percent of the area's residents are minority, and 62 percent live in poverty.

### **OBJECTIVES**

The county plans to establish the Wichita Environmental/Economic Redevelopment Project to promote private sector cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields by encouraging environmental assessment and cleanup planning for property owners in the target area. To support these objectives, the Pilot will develop a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (BRLF) for assessments, conduct community outreach, and leverage existing resources aimed at addressing specific environmental problems. The

### **PILOT SNAPSHOT**



*Wichita, Kansas*

**Date of Announcement:**  
March 1999

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot targets an approximately nine-square-mile industrial corridor that runs through the City of Wichita along a major railroad line.

#### **Contacts:**

Department of Community  
Health  
Wichita-Sedgwick County  
(316) 268-8351

Regional Brown fields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 7  
(913) 551-7786

Visit the EPA Region 7 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region07/specinit/brown/brownfields.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

BRLF will provide low-interest rate, flexible financing for environmental assessment and cleanup planning within the targeted area.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Establishing a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund;
- Funding environmental assessments and cleanup planning within the targeted area;
- Conducting community outreach and educational programs regarding the loan program; and
- Facilitating the use of environmental technical support in the targeted area from established local, state, and federal programs and agencies.

*The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.*